

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, 10, 12-15, 17-20, 22 and 32-33 are currently pending in the application. Claims 23-31 have been withdrawn with traverse as the result of a restriction requirement. Claims 1-5, 10, 12-15, 17-20, 22 and 32-33 were rejected in the Office Action mailed July 16, 2008 (hereinafter referred to as “Office Action”). It is believed that no other fees are due at this time. In view of the following remarks and amendments, applicant respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-5, 10, 12-15, 17-20, 22 and 32-33 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly inoperative and therefore lacks utility. More specifically, the Office Action states that claims 1, 12, 20 and 32 contain the phrase “all the records are linked to one another in a dual closed loop structure” (page 2, lines 12-13) which makes the claimed invention inoperative “[s]ince all the records have to be linked to one another and dual closed loops are not connected to each other, it is not possible to link all the records together in a dual closed loop structure” (page 2, lines 15-17). Applicant respectfully notes that the term “dual closed-loop” was deleted from the claims in the amendment dated April 18, 2008.

In addition, the foregoing amendments delete the term “closed loop” from the claims. As a result, applicant respectfully submits that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 are now moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully submits that claims 1, 12, 20 and 32, as amended, are operative and provides utility. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-5, 10, 12-15, 17-20, 22 and 32-33 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicant requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 1-5, 10, 12-15, 17-20, 22 and 32-33 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, “as failing to set forth the subject matter which applicant(s) regard as their invention” (page 3, lines 5-6). More specifically, the Office Action stated claims 1, 12, 20 and 32 include the phrase “all the records are linked to one another in a data structure” which is not recited in the original disclosure (page 3, lines 7-8). The foregoing amendments change “data structure” to “database structure.” The term “database” is used throughout the specification (e.g., paragraphs [0004]-[0007], [0023], [0025]-[0029], [0036], [0038]-[0040], [0042]-[0044], [0047], [0054]-[0056], [0058], [0064]-[0066], [0070], [0072]-[0073], [0082] and [0086]). The term “structure” is also used and it is well known to those skilled in the art that a database requires some sort of structure. The inventive characteristics of the database structure are recited in elements (1), (2), (3a) and (3b). As a result, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 12, 20 and 32, as amended, are fully described in the specification in such a way to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art of relational database design and asset management that the inventor, at the time the application was filed had possession of the claimed invention and is not new matter. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-5, 10, 12-15,

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17-20, 22 and 32-33, as amended, are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicant requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

The term “closed-loop”

For all the reasons set forth in the remarks of previous amendments, which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety, applicant continues to disagree that the use of the term “closed-loop” in the claims renders the claimed invention inoperative or lacks utility under 35 U.S.C. § 101. For example, the primary and secondary coolant loops of a nuclear power plant are not connected to one another, but they are linked together with heat exchangers that transfer heat from the primary coolant loop to the secondary coolant loop. As a result, closed loops can be linked together without being directly connected to each other!

Conclusion

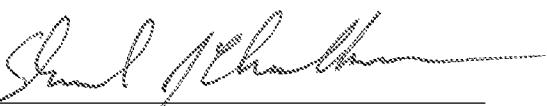
For the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration by the examiner and withdrawal of the restriction requirement. Applicant submits that claims 1-5, 10, 12-15, 17-20, 22 and 32-33 are fully patentable. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the examiner has any questions or comments, or if further clarification is required, it is requested that the examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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